

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraph bridging pages 3-4:

A second aspect of this invention provides a variable picture rate decoding apparatus for reproducing a moving picture from an incoming bit stream coded by inter-picture predictive coding including bidirectional prediction. The apparatus is characterized by comprising decoding controlling means for getting information about a frame pixel number of the previously-mentioned incoming bit stream, and setting a decoding method not decoding all bidirectional inter-picture prediction pictures in the previously-mentioned incoming bit stream in cases where decoding of bidirectional inter-picture prediction pictures in the previously-mentioned incoming bit stream can not be done from a relation between the previously-mentioned frame pixel number and a capacity of a frame memory for decoding ~~which will be mentioned later~~; decoding means for decoding the incoming bit stream in accordance with the previously-mentioned decoding method to get decoded pictures; and a frame memory for decoding which uses a memory corresponding to 4 frames when bidirectional prediction is done as a memory corresponding to two frames double in pixel number in cases where bidirectional prediction is not done in accordance with the previously-mentioned decoding method, and getting a prescribed reproduced picture from the previously-mentioned decoded pictures.

Page 5, full paragraph starting on line 3:

A fourth aspect of this invention provides a variable picture rate decoding method of reproducing a moving picture from an incoming bit stream coded by inter-picture predictive coding including bidirectional prediction. The method is characterized by comprising the steps of getting information about a frame pixel number of the previously-mentioned incoming bit stream, and setting a decoding method not decoding all bidirectional inter-picture prediction pictures in the previously-mentioned incoming bit stream in cases where decoding of bidirectional inter-picture prediction pictures in the previously-mentioned incoming bit stream can not be done from a relation between the

previously-mentioned frame pixel number and a capacity of a frame memory for decoding ~~which will be mentioned later~~; decoding the incoming bit stream in accordance with the previously-mentioned decoding method to get decoded pictures; and getting a prescribed reproduced picture from the previously-mentioned gotten decoded pictures by a frame memory for decoding which uses a memory corresponding to 4 frames when bidirectional prediction is done as a memory corresponding to two frames double in pixel number in cases where bidirectional prediction is not done in accordance with the previously-mentioned decoding method.